

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture Minutes

June 7, 2005

WDA Conference Room, Cheyenne

Members Present: Spencer Ellis, Vice President
Gene Hardy
Lee Otto
Meghan Lally
Jim Mickelson
David Graham
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture

Members Absent: Helen Jones, President
Ryan Ells
Leif Udem
David Largent
Emily Horton
Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture

WDA Staff Present: Jim Schwartz, Deputy Director
Muff Parker, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Ellis 8:05 a.m. on June 7, 2005.

Approval of Minutes

Graham made a motion to approve the April 11 - 13, May 4, and May 18, 2005 minutes. Seconded by Mickelson. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Conservation District Board Appointment

Hardy made a motion to appoint Stacy Child to the Board of Supervisors of the Medicine Bow Conservation District to replace Brian Nesvik as the urban representative. Seconded by Lally. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Youth Advisory

Although no formal letter has been received by Ryan Ells, the Board discussed the vacancy in the Southeast quadrant. That term is due to expire in March, 2005, at which time the Governor will make a new appointment. In general, the Board felt it would be best to wait until that time rather than to only give that appointee a couple of meetings before being replaced. **Graham made a motion to leave the Southeast Youth Board vacant until it is re-appointed by the Governor in March, 2006. Mickelson seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.** Ellis asked Muff to contact Ryan Ells to get a formal letter of resignation. The Board reviewed the criteria used for the Youth Committee. **Hardy made a motion to make the following changes: First criteria will read -Their age must be 18 to 30 at the time of application; Fifth criteria will read -Their applications will be reviewed and ranked by the Board of Agriculture members and the Governor will then select the most qualified candidates; seventh criteria will read - The term shall be for four years.**

Motion was seconded by Graham. All voted in favor. Motion carried. The Board wanted to add some language similar to the Board's reasons for removal to include "more than three (3) un-excused absences shall be cause for removal", but there is no such language for the Board of Agriculture.

Ag Organization Orientation

Jim Magagna, Vice President for the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Ken Hamilton, Executive Vice President, for the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, Bryce Reece, Executive Vice President for the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, Bobbie Frank, Executive Director for the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, and Scott Zimmerman, Field Representative for Rocky Mountain Farmers Union all visited with the Board on what their organizations are all about and some of the most pressing issues they are faced with.

Updates from Members

Gene Hardy attended the Predator meeting in Casper. He reminded the members the ADMB is scheduled to meet in Casper on July 19 and 20 and in July the ADMB will have 3 vacancies.

Jim Schwartz said the University of Wyoming is going to carry the cost of the new building for the Seed Lab in Powell. He also told the Board that the Cheatgrass changes will take a change of law and he doesn't think the Wyoming Crop Improvement Association is going to pursue legislation. He also said that progress is being made on Green Mountain and BLM is working with producers.

David Graham was involved in a conference call with Slade Franklin last week and enjoying working with the Weed and Pest District issues.

Meghan Lally is coordinating a wild horse monitoring program. She said we need to get the word out to encourage people to call with horse numbers in their area to be able to have data to give to BLM. This also includes noting numbers of horses seen outside of the Herd Management Areas.

John Etchepare said his position on in-stream flow is neutral because he feels the term needs to be defined he needs the term to be defined. All water is not in-stream and we (Wyoming) needs to start storing our water.

Jim Schwartz revisited the "Attitudes About Wyoming Agriculture" survey. He asked each member to review the questions asked in the last one and to possibly suggest some new ones for the next survey. He also talked about the information gathering process of the hay prices and the need for the producers to get accurate information to Ag Statistics.

Jim Mickelson talked about the Livestock Board meetings he's attending. After the one tomorrow he should know more about their outcomes. The Board discussed the animal/premise ID system.

Gene Bryant talked about some fence cutting that is happening in his area, again.

Lee Otto explained the Angel Draw Irrigation District was disbanded by the Department of Audit for failure to submit the necessary reports. With Jim Schwartz's and Bobbie Frank's help, the problem is close to being resolved.

Wyoming Wool Growers Association

Bryce Reece talked about the good prices the growers have been experiencing on both lamb and wool. He said the lamb market increased by 7% last year. Their organization passed a

referendum to authorize their check-off program. They are involved in most of the same issues as the other ag organizations, with additional interest in predator management.

Conservation District Bonding Rules

Dani Sullivan reviewed the history of the need for the rule and what the rules defined for the benefit of the new members. Senator Vasey asked the Department to review the bonding of the 34 districts and we found several districts were not adequately bonded. The department then came before the Board with their findings and asked them to promulgate rules to prevent the districts from not being adequately bonded at any one time since a few of the districts had experienced this shortfall in the past. The new rules would protect the employees and their board of supervisors. **Otto made a motion to adopt the rules as presented by the departments. Seconded by Lally. All voted in favor.**

Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts

Bobbie Frank came before the Board to talk about her association and some of the issues they are involved in at the present time. She also asked them to approve the water quality grant funding as approved by WACD. When the Board reviewed them, there seemed to be a discrepancy in the amount allocated overall and she had also received a request from the Popo Agie to withdrawal their request. After making the adjustments necessary, **Lally made a motion to approved the funding as follows: Hot Springs CD - \$20,000; Powder River CD - \$3,710; South Big Horn CD - \$6,290; Washakie County CD - \$10,200. Seconded by Mickelson. All voted in favor. Motion carried.** Bobbie also talked about the proposed changes to the district funding criteria. After some discussion, they decided to continue the discussion at a later meeting.

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union

Scott Zimmerman said what makes his organization a little different from Farm Bureau is their Co-op Development Center in Denver. He said most of their issues are the same as the other ag organizations and they all work well together.

Budget

Julie Cook review the preliminary budget and explained the budget process to the members.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Jones, President

Date

Attachments:

Attendance Sheet

Medicine Bow Conservation District Appointment

Conservation District Bonding Rules

Water quality grant funding